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# [Review of] The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History

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**The Greenwood encyclopedia of rock history: v.1: The early years, 1951-1959; v.2: Folk, pop, mods, and rockers, 1960-1966; v.3: The rise of album rock, 1967-1973; v.4: From arenas to the underground, 1974-1980; etc..** Greenwood, 2006. 6v bibl index afp ISBN [0313329370](#), \$499.95

Two academics who worked for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and six music journalists produced this 1,700-page set. Each volume follows a common presentation: time line; chapters enhanced with black-and-white photographs and sidebars; an "A-Z of Rock" with brief descriptions of major artists, recordings, and events; appendixes listing significant recordings; reference guide; and index. Most chapters introduce a theme (e.g., "Rockabilly," "The Psychedelic Experience"), which precedes a collection of biographical performer descriptions, not unlike entries found in standard rock encyclopedias. Except for common formatting and chronological sequence, these volumes are independent works. Cross-references between volumes are not available in text or indexes, and there is no index for the set. Though dated, *Rock of Ages* (CH, Jun'87), by Ed Ward, Geoffrey Stokes, and Ken Tucker, is still the standard for the first three decades. Other works are more scholarly, such as Joe Stuessy's *Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development*, 5th ed. (2006), or better interweave the social context, e.g., Paul Friedlander's *Rock and Roll: A Social History* (1st ed., CH, Jul'96, 33-6211; 2nd ed., 2006). Nonetheless, each Greenwood volume serves as a useful introduction to its respective era. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Lower-/upper-division undergraduates; general readers.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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